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TRUSTEES OF THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND  
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**Subjunctive Meanings and a Science of Relations**  
**In Two Parts—Part II**

Read before the American Philological Association at  
their meeting in Cambridge, July, 1901

It is very desirable that everybody should know some Latin; it is in the highest degree desirable that some should know a great deal of Latin; and some Carnegie or Schwab may come to discern that even the United States can better forego another great library or another great machine-shop than another great philologist; but for the vast majority, what they might get in getting Latin, is of much more account than is the Latin itself. And what they might get is increased power of classifying relations which is precisely that in which thinking, reasoning, judging consists.

Of course to attain a more accurate classification has been the common aim; and the classifications are now much farther from inaccuracy than they were formerly. This bit, by the way, shows what was once very common in the kindred department of etymology. It occurs in a note on Caesar's Commentaries recently published in Philadelphia.

*Lacus Lemanus.—Philologi Germani nomen hoc continuo per duplicatum nn scribunt, eo decepti quod Germanicum nomen familiarum subesse putent, nempe Lehmann; nihil est absurdus. Romani, ubi poterant, vocabula Latina barbaris substituerunt; quidquid ergo nomen Lacus fuerit, Romani id in similitudinem vocabulorum "laeva Manus", Lemanus, converterunt.*

(This note has the merit of being written in conversational Latin.)

Now there are two methods by which progress has been made, though the two methods have much in common. The former is exemplified in the wider search for linguistic materials and the demand for minds capable of sorting them. Latin in itself; Latin compared with itself in its different stages from the earliest times to those of our Philadelphia friend; Latin with Greek; then the whole

Aryan system; and now the promised modification of this by facts gathered from Africa and America, and by men like Otto Jespersen, Raoul de la Grasserie and Rudolf Lenz.

But there is another method which the following sketch is intended to illustrate:

When those queer things called propositions were invented, the categoricals, modals, disjunctives, and so forth, and it was believed that every sentence could be reduced to such, the books and the schools were full of them (easy things to bring to a lecture hall). They abide still in many quarters; but unto some among us in recent years what the schoolmen ignorantly worshiped, that has been declared. Excluding the sounds and sights of language for the moment from their minds, they discerned the relations which underlay the propositions. These were found to break up into several great groups, each of which, when its properties had been developed, became, in course of time, provided with a new, appropriate, artificial language, a notation, a symbolism, even a calculus. It was then possible to arise from the study of these relations and these new languages (which I have indeed called artificial, but which are no less the natural outgrowth of our time than the *Ursprache* was of the some-thousandth century before Christ, and as much a part of the philologists' province) and go back to the older language-forms and detect more readily than before their varieties of meaning, their inconsistencies, their defects, and contrast and confront them and their meanings with the infinitely greater wealth of meanings and relations which the new views disclosed. To take but one illustration, where the old forms expressed but 4 relations between two classes, the new forms were capable of expressing more than 30,000 relations between two classes, without taking into account any other properties of the two classes than those involved in their mutual exclusion, inclusion and overlapping.

May not something like this be done for grammar, or rather for the investigators of grammar, or at all events for the youthful students of grammar? It is true that the grammarian's range of vision has been much enlarged by the opportunity the modern time

gives each of standing on the shoulders of chemists and naturalists and mathematicians; and, as was to be expected, the grammarian sometimes saw what these suggested rather than what was there. At all events the words fell from his eyes for a space, and he saw the novel relations which the scientists behold. But is there any book, is any book possible, that would give to young and to some of us who are old, *before* we come to the *study* of language, some conception of the variety and complexity of the resemblances and differences—in brief, of the classes and classifications of relations, or whatever more subtle grouping of relations there may be?

It has affected the insight of some whom I know that their first introduction, or attempted introduction, to these relations (poor relations, long kept in the background) was simultaneous with their introduction to common noun, collective noun, subject of a verb, and so forth; and their first glimpse of a classification (the properties of which need not be left to be learned in some college class in Logic) was in that distribution "for convenience" of the Moods into Indicative, Subjunctive, Optative, Infinitive, and Participial. Is there then no concern for the salvation of precious intellects?

Had it not been the hot month of July, had more time been allotted us, had you been disposed to listen, my theme should have been: The desirableness and even the necessity of a descriptive science (not a deductive science) of relations—at least, of some relations, those, namely, implied in the forms of language; these relations, however, being treated apart from language, in, by and of themselves, and compared with other kindred relations, which language has hitherto no form to express; to which is further appended the suggestion of the need of a new and strange nomenclature of these relations, that our minds may be exempt from the misleading associations of the current grammatical vocabulary.

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### Errors in No 35 Corrected

- 1 P I date line: Vol III should read Vol II.
- 2 P I col 1 ¶ 13: B G I 42 should read B G I 41.

### The Scholarship Fund

The next issue, No 38, will contain our financial statement in which will be acknowledged the receipt of all money received during the present school year up to date of going to press.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,  
H F TOWLE, Pres't.

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